

OFFICE MEMORANDUM DIRECTIVE

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 1971

TO: AREA ENGINEERS

FROM: HUBERT C. LAMBERT, STATE ENGINEER AND
EARL M. STAKER, DIRECTING APPROPRIATIONS ENGINEER

RE: POLICY FOR SANTA CLARA RIVER DRAINAGE

A public meeting was held on November 18, 1971 in the auditorium of the West Elementary School, St. George, Utah under the direction of the State Engineer, Mr. Hubert C. Lambert. Introductions were made by Gerald W. Stoker, Area Engineer, of those present who would contribute in presenting a technical report and discussion concerning the water resources, the present and future water development on the Santa Clara River Drainage Area. The meeting was announced in the Washington County News and through the facilities of KDXU Radio of St. George. There were 71 persons in attendance representing an average cross-section of the water users on this system.

Mr. Lambert outlined the purpose of the meeting, indicating that there had been interest expressed in the cooperative study just completed by the United States Geological Survey and the future for water development in the Santa Clara River Drainage Area.

Mr. Jerry Stephens, United States Geological Survey representative, explained their department's role with the Department of the Interior and their technical and cooperative program with various agencies. These remarks were general in nature and set the stage for the report to be given by Mr. Cordova.

Mr. Robert M. Cordova, Geohydrologist for the United States Geological Survey, defined the study area which included most of the Virgin River from the confluence of Ash Creek to the Arizona State Line and all tributaries, along with the terms that he would refer to throughout the discussion, surface (gravity) water and ground water. Visual aids were used to further explain items in this report. The report described the general physiograph of the area, the structural geology as it affects and controls the water supplies of these rivers, and the rock formations that provide the base flows of these streams and the development of ground water supplies. The central theme of this report dwelled on the Santa Clara River Drainage Area including the relationship between surface water and the alluvial basins and the water developed in bedrock.

Mr. Earl M. Staker, Directing Appropriations Engineer, gave a report on the water rights of the area (perfected applications, pending-approved applications, and pending-unapproved applications). Excluding the water rights described in the Santa Clara River Decree, the Office of the State Engineer has of record; 35.33 c.f.s. perfected rights from wells, springs, drains, tunnels, etc.; 58.55 c.f.s. pending-approved applications and 88.63 c.f.s. pending-unapproved applications.

Mr. Lambert then discussed the information given in the report and set the following policy based on that information but stated that it might be revised at a later date if additional evidence indicated the policy change could be justified.

1. All pending-approved applications would be encouraged to be fully developed and completed by November 30, 1973.
2. Pending-unapproved applications for a flow of 0.015 c.f.s. or less, limited to the use of one family, stockwatering and .25 acre or less of irrigation would be considered on an individual basis.
3. Other applications on file for larger flows and larger limitations would be considered on that same basis if they were reduced to a flow of 0.015 c.f.s. for the use of one family, stockwatering and the irrigation of .25 acre or less.
4. Any applicant willing to restrict their development to bedrock by amending their pending-unapproved application and subjecting the development of the well and perforation of the casing to the technical supervision of the State Engineer or his representatives should contact the State Engineer and have his application considered on its own merits.
5. All pending applications for large diversions, on record this date, still unapproved would be held until a later date (after the November 30, 1973 target date), at which time action will be taken.
6. The Santa Clara River Drainage Area will be CLOSED to Appropriation until further notice.